

Corporate Capital Grants Scheme * new application

Town:	East Grinstead
Title of project:	Replacement of junior clubhouse roof and tennis court refurbishment
Applicant:	East Grinstead Rugby Football Club
Type of applicant:	Company Limited by Guarantee
Previous Grants in past 6 years:	£50,000 – single storey clubhouse extension (2012) £50,000 – 3G pitch (2015) WITHDRAWN
Grant Request to MSDC	£102,840 (74%)
Total project cost:	£139,084

Financial Summary

Sources of funding and whether secured

Rugby Football Union - interest free loan (unsecured)	£30,000
EGRFC funds (unsecured)	£15,000
Total	£45,000

Summary of project proposal and aims:

Grant toward replacement of the junior clubhouse roof, associated works and refurbishment of the old tennis court to outside playing and training area for children.

Background

East Grinstead Rugby Football Club (EGRFC) was established in 1929. The club owns its own grounds and facilities in Saint Hill Road and is affiliated to the RFU (Rugby Football Union).

The club has 500 members and caters for players of all ages, from 5 to 60+ years. There are 300 junior members and they have recently added a girls and ladies section which currently offers touch rugby. Membership fees start at £13 per month for junior players and go up to £22 per month for seniors. The club has two paid staff members who deal with marketing and events, a management committee of 14 and 50 volunteers.

In 2012, the club was awarded a grant from MSDC toward the cost of a single storey extension to create a junior clubhouse with a roof terrace for spectators. The total project cost was estimated at £256,300 and the Council made a £50,000 contribution. Unfortunately, although the extension was superficially finished the building work was poor and the project was inadequately managed which has resulted in the need for remedial work to make the extension fit for purpose. The Board members who were responsible for this project have resigned and the current trustees have been working hard to rectify matters. We understand that attempts were made to seek reparations through the Courts but they were unsuccessful and the costs of pursuing this any further are prohibitive.

This project, to complete the work to develop a junior clubhouse, involves refitting the roof and terrace, reconfiguring the changing rooms and refurbishing the under used external tennis courts to create a new outdoor playing and training area for children. The cost of installing an artificial turf surface for 5 a side football and other sports and upgrading the fencing in the tennis courts amounts to £12,840. The total cost of improvements to the junior clubhouse is £126,244 which includes:

roof insulation, roof covering, guttering, drainage and roof terrace means of escape	£78,000
electric off peak heating	£8,000
upgrade fire alarm control panel	£3,244
escape route signage	£1,500
ventilation	£800
water services	£1,200
internal rooms (toilet block, changing room, referees changing, service and drainage)	£20,000
doors to be refitted and floor levels raised	£3,000
minor carpentry to close off voids and fit architraves	£1,500
floor coverings	£7,000
paving around side of building	£2,000

The club intends to carry out these works in Spring/Summer 2009 and aims to increase use of the facilities by children, young adults and female players. There is growing interest and demand for women's rugby and EGRFC is keen to develop female participation in the sport. This project will provide an opportunity reconfigure the changing rooms to accommodate women's teams which will be a new development for them.

The clubhouse is available for hire for community activities, family functions and parties and is used during the summer months for paint-balling.

Head of Finance Comments

Independently audited accounts have been submitted for the period ending 30th April 2017 which show a surplus of £35,810.

Total income was £299,196; mainly generated from Donations (£79,588), Bar Sales (£78,714), Subscriptions (£31,726), Food Sales (£26,608), Miscellaneous

Income (£20,145), Sponsorship (£18,167), Fundraising (£17,184), Rent Received (£8,429), Hire of Facilities (£7,612), Clothing Sales (£6,959), 200 Club Income (£3,614) and Grants (£450).

Total expenditure was £263,386; consisting of Supplies and Services (£185,666), Staff Related (£45,713), Premises Related (£7,821) and Depreciation (£24,186). Balances held at the end of the period showed Net assets of £269,231, comprising of Tangible Assets £475,035, Debtors £3,983, Stock £7,884, Cash £54,318, Creditors (£50,757) and Creditors due after more than 1 year (£221,232).

How does the project meet the Council's aims?

Strong and Resilient communities: The extension provides a dedicated clubhouse for junior members (aged 7-18 years) and additional changing rooms which will allow the club to offer women and girl's rugby. These facilities provide opportunities for adults and children to take part in healthy outdoor sporting activities which encourage team spirit improve and physical wellbeing. The training and competitive rugby allow youngsters to interact, get fit, form friendships and develop their social skills. The inclusive nature of the club promotes family life by encouraging parents to be involved with their children in sport. The club will continue to work with local schools and provide a facility that is available for hire for non-sporting events by the wider community.

Corporate Grant Assessment Group evaluation of the project

The assessment group feels that this project to complete the extension to the existing clubhouse will ensure the rugby club can continue to develop the junior section and encourage more youngsters into the sport. It will also allow provide opportunities to develop women's rugby and make the facilities more inclusive. This is an excellent local resource which benefits the residents of East Grinstead and the surrounding area. These funds were previously allocated to the rugby club for the 3G pitch project which was withdrawn and the Town Council has no objection to the funds being diverted to the clubhouse refurbishment.

Overall score: 7

Corporate Grant Scheme Assessment Group Recommendation

The Assessment Group recommends that the Cabinet Grants Panel award East Grinstead Rugby Football Club, a grant of £50,000 to enable the club to carry out essential works to the roof of the single storey extension (40% of the cost of the junior clubhouse improvements), which is made up of - Section 106 formal sports monies £18,284.92 (Mariners & Redwood P35/501c), £4,012.30 (Dunnings Mill P35/602e), £3,335.04 (27-29 Cantelupe Rd P35/632b), £6,204.65 (Maypole Hse P35/633b) and £18,163.09 (240-258 Holtye Rd P35/694).

This grant offer is made subject to the following special conditions:

- *That it can be demonstrated that the project can be funded in its entirety with 12 months of the grant offer*
- *The project must be completed within 12 months of project funding being obtained*
- *Submission of an Equal Opportunities Policy*